

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Weds., February 14, 2018, 7:30pm, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attendance: Tim Lecuivre, members: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps, John Ellis, Steve Moore, Ed Trembly. Visitors: Brian Turnbaugh, Rachael Stark

1. Approve January meeting minutes – approved

2. Tree Department Update (Tim)

- General update –
 - a. no contractors in town now, yet Mt Pleasant cemetery tree work is on the schedule (the \$\$ for this work will be out of the cemetery budget, not tree budget).
 - b. Town hiring – currently 4/6 FTE filled this would be 5/6 FTE filled.
 - c. Stump removal happening around town by the Town.
 - d. Town is offering Tree DPW staff overtime to water trees afterhours in the summer; we will have to wait to see what kind of response we get
 - e. Burial ground at Pleasant and Mass Ave– new CPA-funded historic preservation project. As part of this first planning phase, the team has inventoried the trees and identified those that have roots impacting the walls and/or crypts. This joint project is being undertaken by the Arlington Historical Society, Town Manager, and Cemetery Commission Tim was brought into the discussion by Barbara Keen - an architect hired by the town; she brought him a plot plan with trees marked. **Action item: Susan Stamps will reach out to the Town Manager and ask that the Tree Warden be reached out to at the start of any town projects that involve trees.**
- Tree hearing(s) – 3/12, 10AM at Grove Street. Tree in question is across from 40 Foster Street, 13" DBH ash tree. Warden says its healthy. The parties are trying to save the tree but thought they should proceed with a hearing in case it has to be removed. The plan calls for a ramp and a crosswalk and an ADA compliant sidewalk. Hearing notice will be posted on the tree and in the Advocate.
- # of Tree Requests – 108 so far. Decision made to hold off on a town wide email blast to solicit for tree locations since we've already received over 100 requests and Tim only ordered 100 trees. Plus an additional 16 trees to replace those 16/32 trees on Mass Ave from the East Arlington project that died due to lack of watering, dead on arrival, etc. Linden, Lilac., etc will be planted
- Tim and Adam Kurowski are making progress with town GIS for tree mgmt system on PeopleGIS. **Action: John will serve as Tree Committee liaison and communicate with Adam K.** The hope is that Adam will assist with the consolidation of the Web/QA database of pruned/taken down trees accomplished this fall so the tree inventory is updated to reflect the remaining number of high priority trees out of the 1200 identified during the inventory.

- Preliminary budget calls for an additional \$50K towards trees – John is talking to finance committee in two weeks, presenting the inventory slide show
- Any outreach regarding restoring SpyPond shoreline project? No update.
- Any updates for increasing fee for Ch 87 trees? No news

3. Tree Preservation Bylaw fee adjustment (Susan/Mary Ellen)

- Warrant submitted. Actual proposal still needs to be drafted.

4. Arlington Community Tree Canopy Program – (John/Mary Ellen)

- Tree selection and ordering (25 hawthorn galli thornless, 25 red oak). Will use \$1500 from MacEachearn Bequest. 50 trees equals a \$30/tree discount. Therefore, about \$74 and \$56 will be the suggested price to residents for a tree + delivery. NE Nurseries can provide two types of gator bags \$24.99 or \$29.99. ATC not sure if we should offer this. **Action: MEA and John will work up advertising and costs and timeline and begin promoting this program. John sending purchase order to NE Nurseries.**
- ATC members to help advertise, pick up checks, and assist on delivery day(s), and check up later (Steve, Susan,) Maybe target delivery for Arbor Day Friday April 27th though might take 2 days.

5. Publicity/Outreach (Eliza)

- Continues community outreach via Facebook and Googlegroups
- Website needs updating. Recently included revised tree list. (website needs to be fixed – ads have infiltrated it.) Becky Edmonson former member is willing to help. **Action: MEA will reach out to her to atleast get ads out of site and will look into a formal website overhaul. Steve will look into whether we should consider having the town maintain an Arl Tree Committee site.**
- Flyer to put in Arl Chamber of Commerce tote bags **Action: Eliza will draft up.**
- Susan Stamps statement at Arlington Land Trust annual meeting to introduce the ATC. Many did not know about ATC. Kevin Knobloch speaker
- Advocate article Jan 25 reported on John's ATC presentation to Select Board
- EcoFest; March 24, 2018, 10-2pm. Featured speaker Ben Barkan
 - volunteers to man table (Tim will be there and can share a table; Steve also offered to man table); Eliza may be able to help set up.
 - Develop flyer/poster to encourage tree planting. **Action: Eliza created and will get this printed**

6. Inventory/Management Plan update (John/Mara, Eliza/Mary Ellen)

- Mgmt Plan document updates -
- DPW input on Mgmt Plan mtg on Feb 12. **Action: Mara will revise and circulate another draft for review by ATC members by next meeting. ATC will be given a week to review and then to DPW. Plan due to DCR by april 29th (60 days in advance of June 30th deadline).**
- Master Plan was consulted in Mgmt Plan
- Request data from Intern in format for chart/graph creation in Excel, for ATC to keep/maintain/use (**Action: MEA to reach out to John to what we need**).
- BoS meeting presentation – feedback? Other outreach? – finance committee by John

7. New Business

- Census survey question - EAB plan - should tell them to join our Google Group, and continue to collect names. **Action: Susan will be in touch with EAB representative, Javier**
- American Chestnut Foundation – 4 seeds (John is the contact)
- Correspondence. None
- New members – vote to recommend Brian Turnbaugh – YES! Approved for membership. **Action: MEA will submit approval to BoS .**
- Givebacktime.org used to track ahs community service hours. **Action: John will reach out to see if Tree Committee could run some sort of volunteer program through them**
- Other Business: Cambridge has a “Junior forester program” that encourages kids 5-13 to adopt a tree(s) and water them, and other things. They also offer a “TreeKeepers” program to encourage the adoption of a tree for 2 years. Could the Arl Rec Dept or Community Ed run a program like this? (MEA/Eliza interested)
- Gas leaks – HEET & Mothers out Front talked to John . HEET (produced map of Arlington gas leaks) has a tester that they would be happy to loan to Tim and provide training so he can test planting sites prior to planting. If successful, Town could consider purchasing a tester. Also, BU class project is coming into Arlington to use our trees in a study (heat islands, gas leaks, etc) this summer. **Action: John will put Tim in touch with HEET.**

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, March 14